

House Republican Press Release

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House Gives Final Legislative Approval to Stem Cell Research Bill Cospponsored by Rep. Miller



The state House of Representatives today gave final legislative approval to a measure (Senate Bill 934) cosponsored by state Representative Lawrence G. Miller that would permit stem cell research and prohibit human cloning in Connecticut - and could lead to the development of new approaches to treating a variety of deadly diseases and debilitating conditions.

“This legislation will make state funding available for embryonic and human adult stem cell research that could result in the development of therapies and cures for diabetes, Parkinson’s Disease, Alzheimer’s Disease, strokes, coronary heart disease, Lou Gehrig’s Disease, deafness, damaged lung tissue, breast cancer, leukemia, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, eye diseases and multiple myeloma,” said Representative Miller, R-122nd District, a cancer survivor whose life was prolonged through adult stem cell transplant therapy.

“If this bill becomes law, it will give research institutions such as those at the University of Connecticut and Yale a competitive edge that could help make our state a leader in this field. This legislation will help the biotechnology industry and encourage research that has the potential to improve the overall health of our society,” Representative Miller said. “If Governor Rell signs this bill into law, and I am optimistic that she will do so, it will lead to enormous medical and scientific advances, stimulate economic growth in Connecticut and create new jobs.”

The bill would:

- Prohibit the cloning of a human being and make violations punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000, imprisonment of up to 10 years, or both.
- Establish a "Stem Cell Research Fund" and appropriate \$20 million from the General Fund to it for the 2005 fiscal year, and direct that \$10 million be disbursed from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to the Stem Cell Research Fund for fiscal years 2008 to 2015.
- Require that for fiscal years 2006 to 2015, at least \$10 million be made available from the research fund for grants to eligible institutions for embryonic or human adult stem cell research.